

Leicester, Apr. 26/61.

Dear Burleigh;

You will have probably learned from other sources before you receive this, that the ann. Meetg. of the Am. Socy. (announced for May 7.) is postponed. Of course it cannot now be told when it will be even likely to be held. All depends on the state of the country & of public affairs. Nor is it by any means certain that the N-England Convention will be held at the usual time, tho' we hope it may be, - and that then, or certainly at no very remote time, the little company also wear both weeping, bearing precious Leed, shall come again with rejoicing

bearing their sheaves with them! I
do wish to live to see that day. And
now, - if only the North will continue
firm, united, prompt, - I do believe
the Kingdom of heaven draweth nigh, -
that it is even at the door. - Very
likely, at first, defeats and losses may
attend us; the Slave Crew, drunk with
what they deem their success (!) at Ft.
Sumpter, and then wonderful prowess,
will be likely to make them most
desperate efforts first. But we must
crush them with our legions, and with the
mornbringers weight of our good Cause.

But the Report, - for these times
make that more vitally interesting and
necessary than ever. Lose not a jot of

faith or courage, but keep on in
this labour, until you bring us as a
band, before the world, abreast of the
times, - in our published, as in our
actual, history.

Of course the perpetuation of the Am.
Meetg. will give you the opp^o. to do, what
otherwise had ceased to be possible - (this
you yourself have never hinted any doubt
of its possibility to me) - viz. to finish the
Report, down to May 1. 1861, (a consumma-
tion devoutly to be wished), in season for the
annual meeting.

- ① Please tell me - Is there a chance
that the Report, to said time, may be
ready for the N. England Convention, pro-
vided it be held ? The last copy must be
in printer's hands, to be read, by May 10th, at night.
The doubt which now hangs over the time

of holding the N. E. Conv'. is such, that I do not advise any especial effort to get it ready for that meetg.; yet it is possible (and very likely, in my judgment) that it may be an yr. sooner to complete it then.

(2.) One more question: Supposing it (the Report) not to be in readiness for the N. E. Conv', if that be held at usual time when do you think it probable it can be completed? Not expecting that you can name any particular day for such completion, you can probably form some estimate of the time yet wanted for the work, and so approximate the day.

Please give me early reply, addressed to me in Boston, 221 Wash'r. St.

Very truly, Hopefully, Yrs. S. May Jr.

Ms. B. 1. 6 v. 8 p. 54